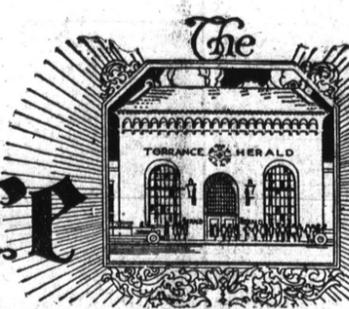




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INCREASE IN FIRE DEPT. FORCE, EQUIPMENT STUDIED

Underwriters Proposals For Improvement to Lower Insurance Rates Here, Too Expensive to Be Adopted

Recommendation of the Fire Underwriters Association involving a considerable expansion of the Torrance fire department with a view to obtaining lower insurance rates here was placed before the city council at its meeting on Tuesday night.

The letter was supplemented by a recommendation from Fire Chief A. D. Stevenson, which pointed out immediate steps which might be taken by the council, leading up to the adoption of the whole program, which at present time is out of the question because of the expense involved.

The Underwriters recommended the expansion of the fire department to a force of 25 men, the purchase of additional equipment to be stationed at Walteria and in the Hollywood tract, but according to Mr. Stevenson the city will be able to supply what is now necessary by the employment of one extra engineer at a salary of \$125 per month, four call men at \$7 a month, and the purchase of two small trucks to be stationed in the outlying districts. Two extra beds for the accommodation of the extra call men will also be required.

At the present time, the fire department has a limited number of men regularly employed and on call.

Should more than one fire break out at the same time, the department would be unable to handle the situation, especially if the equipment were called to a distant point, such as Hollywood Bluffs, part of which is in the city limits.

After a short discussion the matter was laid on the table to be taken up as unfinished business at the next meeting of the council, as the councilmen felt that more time to study the situation was necessary.

Proposals to establish direct telephone communication from Walteria and the McDonald tract to the fire station here, also came up for discussion but no action was taken as the price asked by the telephone company for putting such a line into operation is considered too high. The cost of direct wire service from these points would run about \$97 per month, which in view of the limited budget is out of the question just now.

Whether the telephone company can be induced to lower that figure to a sum that could be included in next year's budget is problematical.

Gardena Bank Gets Approval of Plan to Reorganize

Approval of the depositors' water agreement and other features of the reorganization plan for reopening the Farmers & Merchants Bank at Gardena by the state banking department and the R. F. C. was announced today by Jas. V. Blake, conservator.

Features of the reorganization plan call for creating a liquidation corporation and issuance of stock to depositors. A depositors meeting will be called next week to explain details, it is announced.

Twelve Petitions Are Already Filed—More to Come

Five in Race For Council; Four For City Clerk, and Three For Treasurer

The list of candidates who had filed their petitions for election to municipal offices numbered 12 at noon today, with indications that a number of others would be added before the final filing date, March 20.

This week's list included: WILLIAM H. TOLSON, for the unexpired two-year term of the council; Thomas J. Wilkes, for Earl Conner on the city council; JOHN V. MURRAY, for the four-year term on the council; ROBERT F. LESSING, for the unexpired term of Earl Conner; CHARLES T. CURTISS, for city clerk.

HARRY H. DOLLEY, for re-election as city treasurer; E. N. TOMKINS, for city treasurer; BENJAMIN F. TOWNSEND, SR., for city treasurer.

The remaining five candidates who filed last week are: Lloyd C. Conner for the two-year term on the council; Thomas J. Wilkes for the four-year term on the council; and A. H. Bartlett, Harry W. Beach and Alfred Gourdier, all seeking election as city clerk.

Option On Site For Reservoir to Expire June First

In a written communication to the city council, read Tuesday night at the regular meeting of that body, the Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company granted an option to the city to purchase six acres of land in the west part of town at a price of \$2250 per acre.

The option will expire on June 1, 1934, unless further time extension is granted by the company.

The six acres in question comprise the site of the reservoir to be built in connection with the proposed municipal water system, proceedings for which have been under way for months, and which project is now being surveyed by the Public Works Administration to which application for funds has been made.

Civil Service Is Ordered For County Charities Employees

Warned by federal relief officials that government funds would be cut off if provided for administration of relief unless employees were placed under civil service regulations, the county civil service commission today prepared to carry out an order to that effect from the board of supervisors.

Approximately 1000 employees of the county charity department are affected by the order, and according to Secretary Clifford Amidsen it will require approximately two weeks to reclassify the employees affected. Open competitive examinations will be held, and bulletins with full details will be posted as soon as possible.

Children Damage Beautiful Window At St. Andrew's

Juveniles, careless with BB guns or stones, are believed to be responsible for damage to an expensive stained glass window on the east side of St. Andrew's Episcopal church.

The window, made of beautiful colored glass imported from England, and installed at considerable cost, has recently been pelted with some hard object and one section has been broken.

As this window would cost more than \$100 to replace, it behooves the parents of children who are responsible to see that the offenses are not repeated.

Catholic Bishop Here Tuesday Nite

Most Reverend John J. Cantwell, bishop of the Catholic diocese of Los Angeles and San Diego, will visit the Church of the Nativity Tuesday evening, March 6. During his episcopal visitation His Excellency will administer the sacrament of confirmation to a class of 48 children and 12 adults at 7:30 p. m. Clergy from the neighboring towns will also be the guests of the pastor and people of the Church of the Nativity on that evening.

Reorganization of Bank Shows Progress

Renewed efforts to complete the reorganization plan of the First National Bank of Torrance are being made this week, following receipt of information from the Comptroller of the Currency that the dead-line would be extended. In a statement today, J. W. Post said:

"An extension of time has been granted to March 13, providing reports made at intervals in the meantime show satisfactory progress. A number of depositors have the erroneous opinion that if they defer signing the waiver and subscription to stock, the reorganization will be accomplished without their action. I wish to repeat that the success of the plan depends upon the united support of every depositor, and the co-operation of small depositors is necessary. No matter how small your account may be, it is vital to the success of the plan to co-operate. It would certainly be regrettable if the wishes and desires of the large majority of depositors should be defeated by the failure or neglect of only a few to do their part."

Officers of the depositors' committee in the escrow room of the bank are open every evening until 10 o'clock, and any questions regarding the reorganization plan will be gladly explained, Mr. Post stated.

ORDINANCE TO CHECK RABIES IS ADOPTED

While the amendment to an existing ordinance, setting up quarantine regulations as a means to stamp out rabies, was adopted Tuesday night as an emergency measure, no alarm should be felt in the city of Torrance over the situation, as no cases of rabies have developed within the boundaries of this community.

The action of the city council was taken as a precaution, to make it possible without delay to set up such quarantines in the interest of public safety, should an outbreak of the disease make it necessary.

Rabies has been prevalent to an alarming extent in other nearby communities. In one instance near at hand, 14 people were bitten by a rabid dog which ran at large in a neighborhood in the south part of Lomita.

Inglewood has had several cases of animal rabies and many other communities in the southern end of the state have been afflicted. County health authorities are constantly on the alert to prevent the spread of the disease, which if allowed to develop, is invariably fatal to animal or human victims and is attended with very distressing conditions. Immediate Pasteur treatment for all victims who are bitten or scratched by animals suspected of disease is the only known preventive and promptness in applying for the treatment is a great factor in warding off the disease.

Under the proposed ordinance, the city will set up a quarantine for all dogs whenever a case of rabies, real or suspected, is reported, and during the term of a quarantine no dog will be permitted to roam at large. Immunization against rabies will be required, or proper muzzles, for dogs lead on-leash. Dogs which are at large during a quarantine period may be killed if they cannot be captured, and those captured will be maintained in the public pound until claimed by the owner or if unclaimed may be sold for charges or may be humanely destroyed. Owners claiming impounded dogs will be required to pay the charge for their maintenance.

County Farm Bureau Meeting Friday Nite

The regular monthly meeting of the county farm bureau will be held at Community hall, in Gardena, tomorrow evening, March 2, beginning at 7:30.

Speakers from the Los Angeles headquarters will be present, and discussions of problems of agriculture will form the program.

All agriculturalists and others who are interested in farm and marketing problems are cordially invited to attend.

ASK FOR PROBATION Robert J. Dillon and William A. Thomas, Torrance residents, pleaded guilty in superior court this week to a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and will ask for probation. The hearing will be held March 13.

CIVIL SERVICE PROPOSITION PUT TO VOTE

Resolution Placing Measure On April Ballot Passes Council

Three "yeas" and two "nays" were recorded in the rollcall Tuesday night when the resolution to place the proposition establishing civil service in the police and fire departments was called up for a vote.

Mayor Scott Ludlow, Councilmen W. H. Stanger and James E. Hitchcock were the affirmative. Councilmen James Wright and W. T. Klusman were the negative.

The two objectors registered their ballots in spite of the fact that the number of names certified as attached to the petitions on file represented 15 or more per cent of the registered voters in the city, making it mandatory on the council to place the measure on the ballot.

The proposition will be submitted at the municipal election on April 9. Under the terms, a civil service commission will be set up in Torrance, and all employees of the police or fire department will come under its rules and regulations. The move is sponsored by the departments in the interests of stability, to remove these important sections of city government from the petty politics of changing administrations.

Following the rollcall, and the mayor's reminder that the council had no choice in the matter, Mr. Klusman rose to explain his stand. "It is perfectly ridiculous," he said "to establish such a commission in a city as small as Torrance. The only reason for its being done is that the police and firemen are afraid of their jobs and they are taking this way to make sure of them. I am opposed to it and will fight it to the last ditch."

Mr. Wright declared his opposition to the measure because the department had been combined under one board. He contended that they should be operated under separate commissions.

New Playground Opened Saturday On Sartori Ave.

The new playground at Sartori and Cota avenue opened for use last Saturday afternoon. The hours for use will be the same as are in effect at all the other recreation centers in Torrance, from 9:30 to 5 on Saturday, from 3 to 5 on other week days.

According to Bernard Donahue, playground director, an airplane club has been formed which meets at the playground at Cravens and Post avenues, and a harmonica band is being developed under the leadership of Mr. Faulk.

As soon as the weather warms up a little more some night games will be started at the playground, and the building on Cabrillo avenue will be open for indoor games.

All children and adults who wish to use these playgrounds are welcome and are urged to take advantage of the opportunities offered for organized play.

3379 Persons Are Eligible To Vote In Bond Election

A total of 3379 persons residing in Torrance will be eligible to vote in the special Los Angeles school district bond election on March 29, it was learned today from W. M. Kerr, registrar of voters.

Registration throughout the Los Angeles school district, which also serves Bell, Maywood, Beverly Hills, San Fernando, and some unincorporated territory, was given as \$66,132. Los Angeles city alone has 679,028 while Torrance and other areas have 127,155.

Appointment Moneta Postmaster Approved

The appointment of Sid Horrell, prominent Moneta Democrat, as postmaster at Moneta, was confirmed by the United States Senate last Thursday, according to word received from Washington. Mr. Horrell was formerly employed at the Citizen's Bank in Moneta. He will succeed Mrs. Amanda Somer who has been acting postmaster.

Notes From Washington

By Charles J. Colden, Congressman, 17th District

One of the important pieces of legislation to come before this session of Congress was the Revenue bill of 1934. This bill, as introduced by the ways and means committee of the House, consists of 214 pages and deals with raising revenue needed by the government. The securing of the great sums of money needed for relief and recovery, in addition to the regular and current expenses of government, presents a perplexing problem.

The production of sufficient revenue appears an easy matter to some citizens who feel that the burden should be placed upon Wall Street by a few simple phrases and let it go at that. Then there is the wealthy citizen who groans with income taxes and cheers for a sales tax as the easy way out. Nobody rushes before Congress and begs to be taxed. But there are legions who mull and wile volumes to show why a tax will ruin them and why the other fellows are more able to pay. Creating new taxes is an unhappy task to the members of the ways and means committee. They must raise revenue and their efforts usually result in distributing the privilege to share in taxation to all the rich and most of the poor.

Among the provisions of the revenue bill of 1934 is one which provides for the repeal of the tax on bank checks on January 1, 1933. This act will afford a yearned for relief to the average business and professional man. But the effort to reduce the price of stamps from three to two cents did not fare so well. The expenses of the postal department are yet far in excess of income. Extraneous air-mail and ocean-mail contracts are responsible for some of the deficit. The low rates enjoyed by magazines and newspapers is another. After the housecleaning is over in the postal department and the department returns to normal, there may be a break for the forgotten stamp-buyer. But Uncle Sam needs the extra penny now.

The gas tax will be reduced to one cent per gallon but the present bill provides for a new tax of one-tenth cent per barrel on crude petroleum. This last tax is for the purpose of keeping check on the production of crude oil. Also it is presumed to be of aid in the control of oil production and a discouragement to bootlegging in oil production, particularly in the oil fields of the Southwest. It is said that this custom of bootlegging is not as prevalent in California as in some other oil-producing states.

One of the main objectives of the present bill is to stop the leaks through which the Morgans and the Mellons and others of great riches have escaped just taxation and left the average business and professional man to carry the heavy end of the load. The income tax bill as reported to the House begins by charging those persons whose income reaches the first bracket four per cent and keeps on climbing until it reaches the fellow with a million a year income. He must pay the government over 27 per cent or more than half of his income. And the man with an income of over a million a year must pay over 63 per cent of the excess. Be careful not to let your income get up to a million or you will be working for Uncle Sam the majority of your time. Senator Huey Long will probably fight to raise it in the Senate but others will battle to reduce it so all we can do is to wait and see who wins in the final struggle.

Half Million to Be Spent For Schools In This Locality

Announcement from the board of education gives the exact figures of education for the exact figures of education which will be spent for rehabilitation and strengthening schools in Torrance and vicinity, out of funds from the sale of a bond issue to be voted upon March 20. Bonds in the sum of \$20,000,000 are asked to be authorized and an additional sum is expected from federal sources.

For Torrance high school the sum of \$143,734 is earmarked as follows: Main building, \$69,440; auditorium, \$17,171; science and home economics, \$20,160; shop, \$8960.

Torrance elementary will draw \$72,744; Carson street elementary, \$23,520; Fern avenue, \$31,496.

At Lomita, Narbonne high school will require \$104,586, divided as follows: Main building (which contains auditorium), \$90,138; north wing, \$6384; south wing, \$8064. Lomita street elementary will be entirely rebuilt as the old building is now being torn down. \$80,640; Orange street, \$42,832.

The total of these expenditures is \$602,652.

Women Workers At Sewing Rooms Are Placed Under CWA

Notice to the city council that the CWS sewing project operated for some time in Torrance had been taken over as a CWA project, effective February 22, relieves the city of the necessity for carrying state compensation insurance on the women workers in this unit. Word to that effect was received from the CWA headquarters this week.

Under the new arrangement the women will be placed under CWA rules and will be eligible for federal compensation the same as men who are registered under this branch.

Registrations For City Election Close With 3500 On Rolls

Registration books for the April 9 municipal election were closed today. While official records are not available, it was estimated by City Clerk Bartlett that approximately 3500 voters will be eligible to cast their ballots at the coming election. This number is about 100 less than the total registration two years ago.

Who Remembers When

A dust storm raged so violently in Torrance that shovels were used to clean the bathtubs? Where all the social and other gatherings were held and the name of the hall?

What Sunday school held the first Christmas tree celebration? Who were the first officers of the Chamber of Commerce? What company established the first plumbing and electrical shop?

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S WRW: The first cafe to advertise in the Torrance Herald, probably the first place of its kind to open here, was the California Cafe, Mrs. Cora I. Kirkwood, proprietor. The advertising ran in the first issue of the Torrance Herald, January 8, 1914. The first jeweler in Torrance was A. DePalmeiras. The first deputy registrar of voters was A. M. Stout. His office was located at the corner of Cabrillo and Susana (now Gramary) avenues. Residents of Torrance were urged to register so that a polling place could be designated here. Otherwise voters would have to walk to Lomita to cast their ballot. Vacant lots were planted to barley in the spring of 1914 to aid in battling the dust storms which were a nuisance to early settlers. General Nelson A. Miles, retired army officer, visited Torrance on March 14, 1914, in company with 33 other noted men, millionaires, and corporation heads, who were taken on a tour of inspection by the founder, Jared Sidney Torrance. The names of the other visitors and their business connections read, like a page from "Who's Who." The story is on file in the Herald office if anyone cares to look it over.

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